The narrative scaffold

We can see from King Midas and your answers to the activity above that a narrative text can have five main parts. These are shown in the diagram below, which is called a scaffold. A scaffold is a guide for constructing a piece of text.

1 Orientation
In this paragraph the narrator tells the audience who is in the story, when it is happening, where it is happening and what is going on.

2 Complication
This is the part of the story where the narrator tells about something that will begin a chain of events. These events will affect one or more of the characters. The complication is the trigger.

3 Sequence of events
This is where the narrator tells how the characters react to the complication. It includes their feelings and what they do. The events can be told in chronological order (the order in which they happen) or with flashbacks. The audience is given the narrator's point of view.

4 Resolution
In this part of the narrative where the complication is sorted out or the problem is solved.

5 Coda
The narrator includes a coda if there is to be a moral or message to be learned from the story.